

MARIN COUNTY – GOLDRIDGE RCD

2008 WMA Base Funding Work Plan

**Member of the Marin-Sonoma WMA
Title: Rapid Response Program
Workplan for Marin County portion of 2-county project**

January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009

Contract Lead Group (County, RCD, or Other) and contact information:

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Project Manager (contact for reporting and invoicing) and contact information:

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WMA Group affiliation: Marin-Sonoma WMA (A Two County WMA Group)

Please Confirm, All projects described in this work plan will be in one contract with (if more than one contract is desired, please describe here): Confirmed, 1 contract with Goldridge RCD

Proposed Project

Project Goal:

The Marin-Sonoma Rapid Response program identifies and removes incipient populations of harmful invasive plants before they can grow into large and costly control projects, a “stitch-in-time” approach which proactively prevents the damage caused by these invaders; educates citizens regarding natural resource stewardship; and dramatically eliminates the need for the planning, labor, and effort to control large established invasive plant populations. The project coordinates with the emerging Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN), a partnership of regional land managers and invasive species experts coordinating Early Detection of harmful invasive plants across the 9 county Bay Area.

Our WMA will identify priority invasive plant occurrences and report their locations to the BAEDN. These occurrences will be prioritized for eradication using the CDFA decision-making tool and the prioritized list of eradication targets given to our coordinator. The Rapid Response coordinator will work with MSWMA partners and the public to ensure that the highest priority eradication targets are treated. The coordinator will also track treatments so that we can return in subsequent years and ensure eradication.

Project Objectives:

The proposed project provides Rapid Response to invasive plant Early Detections made by the BAEDN. The MSWMA Rapid Response project will coordinate removal of the highest priority harmful and noxious weed populations identified in Marin and Sonoma counties. Primary objectives of the MSWMA Rapid Response Project are:

- 1) **Ensure removal of high priority harmful and noxious weed occurrences from MSWMA partner lands.** The project will coordinate the actions of MSWMA partners to ensure Rapid Response against the most urgent weed occurrences. This will be done by contacting partners directly to encourage treatment, and by ensuring that this work is a regular component of our WMA meetings and activities. Our objective is to: remove at least 50% of the top 50 eradication targets that are identified on lands managed by MSWMA partners.
- 2) **Work with non-partners to inform them of occurrences on their land, and where necessary, provide resources to remove high priority occurrences.** Some priority weed occurrences occur on private lands. This effort ensures that these habitats are not left out of the solution, and also connects the WMA with ranchers, farmers, and private landowners who do not have time to be active WMA partners. The coordinator will work with MSWMA partners to identify new ways of contacting landowners, and if necessary will contact landowners directly. When landowners require assistance conducting eradication treatments, we will provide assistance. Our objective is to: remove at least 50% of the top 50 eradication targets that are identified on lands managed by non-partners, and to recruit at least 10 of these non-partners as MSWMA participants.
- 3) **Collect new occurrence observations from WMA partners and the public, and report occurrences and rapid response actions to the BAEDN database.** The project will make sure that Marin-Sonoma detections are entered into the BAEDN database, so that our counties receive their fair share of Rapid Response funding and resources. The project will also make sure that eradication actions are reported back to BAEDN, so that the benefit of our work can be quantified and clearly reported to land managers and decision makers. Our objectives are to: conduct at least one training in detection and reporting protocols; ensure that at least 100 occurrences are reported to the BAEDN from each county; report to the BAEDN 100% of our eradication target treatments; revisit and assess 100% of treated sites one year after treatment.
- 4) **Public information coordination.** Provide public education about invasives and the EDRR efforts, ensure that observations made by the public are reported to the BAEDN network and assessed for treatment priority, ensure that noxious weed removal efforts take into consideration public and neighborhood concerns. Improving this public understanding of our work is critical to ensuring that invasive plant work is supported as environmental protection, rather than opposed due to misunderstandings over methodologies. Our objectives are to: deliver at least 3 public presentations to citizen and activist groups (e.g. Audubon, CNPS, Sierra Club, neighborhood groups, etc); recruit and train at least 10 detection partners in the two counties; establish a corps of volunteer eradication partners; establish a volunteer “adopt-a-site” program.

Coordination with Neighboring WMAs

Sonoma County is split between two WMAs, the Marin-Sonoma WMA and the Mendocino Coast Cooperative WMA. The MCCWMA has requested that they receive an appropriate portion of the total county baseline. Upon consultation, we have agreed upon the following allocation formula. For targets which occur within the portion of Sonoma County protected by the Mendocino Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area, funding for rapid response field treatments will still be allocated based on BAEDN-derived priority, but the relevant funding for each of these targets will be transferred so that treatments will be implemented by the

MCCWMA. This will provide incentive for detections to be made across the entire county, and ensure equity in how eradication funds are distributed.

Equipment:

This will include a GPS unit, spray equipment and materials, hand tools, miscellaneous field equipment such as tarps, gloves, sunscreen. Additional hand tools, emergency wash tank, personal safety gear, and other materials will be provided by MSWMA partners and will be considered part of the WMA in-kind contribution.

Mapping:

All areas treated and surveyed will be reported to the BAEDN database and displayed on a map that will be submitted to all WMA partners and CDFA at the completion of the project.

Reporting:

A project report will be submitted at the completion of the contract and will include the following information: number of priority eradication targets treated; gross area surveyed; number of detections made; control tools utilized; change in number of target plants between visits; number of sites with no target plants in second year; graphs showing status of sites (active, surveillance, historic); and photographs.